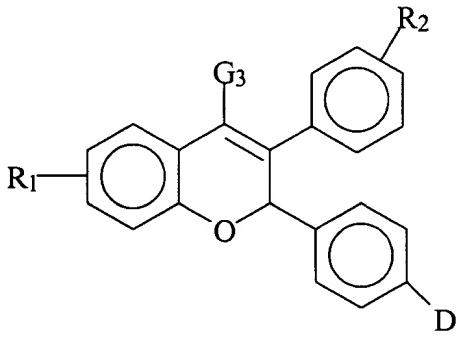
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-77 (Canceled).

78. (Currently amended) A method of treating or reducing the risk of acquiring hypercholesterolemia comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or reduction a therapeutically effective amount of a sex steroid precursor selected from the group consisting of dehydroepiandrosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone-sulfate, androst-5-ene-3β,17β-diol and a compound converted *in vivo* to one of the foregoing, and further comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a selective estrogen receptor modulator as part of a combination therapy, ~~The method of claim 75~~ wherein said selective estrogen receptor modulator ~~the compound~~ is a benzopyran derivative of the following general structure:



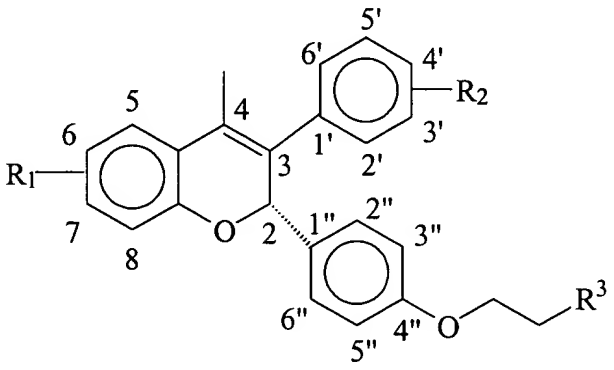
wherein D is $-OCH_2CH_2N(R_3)R_4$ (R_3 and R_4 either being independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl, or R_3, R_4 and the nitrogen atom to which they are bound together being a ring structure selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidino, dimethyl-1-pyrrolidino, methyl-1-pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, hexamethyleneimino and morpholino); and

wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl and a moiety converted *in vivo* ~~in~~ to hydroxyl, and

wherein a beneficial effect of said combination exceeds, by a statistically significant margin, a beneficial effect from either said precursor or said selective estrogen receptor modulator alone.

Claims 79-80 (Canceled)

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the benzopyran derivative is an optically active compound having an absolute configuration S on carbon 2 or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said compound having the molecular structure:



wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl and a moiety convertible *in vivo* to hydroxyl;

wherein R^3 is a species selected from the group consisting of saturated, unsaturated or substituted pyrrolidinyl, saturated, unsaturated or substituted piperidino, saturated, unsaturated or substututed piperidinyl, saturated, unsaturated or substituted morpholino, nitrogen-containing cyclic moiety, nitrogen-containing polycyclic moiety, and NRaRb (Ra and Rb being independently

hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, straight or branched C_2-C_6 alkenyl, and straight or branched C_2-C_6 alkynyl.

Claims 82-83 (Canceled).

Claim 84 (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said compound or salt substantially lacks (2R)-enantiomer.

Claims 85-86 (Canceled)

Claim 87 (Previously presented) The method of claim 78 wherein said selective estrogen receptor modulator is selected from the group consisting of:

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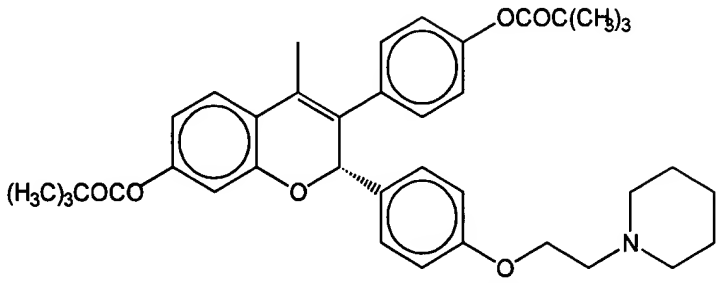
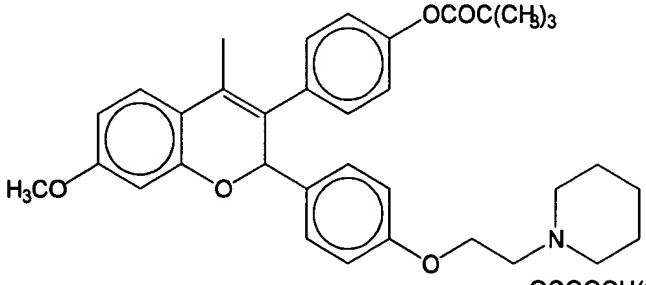


EM-01520



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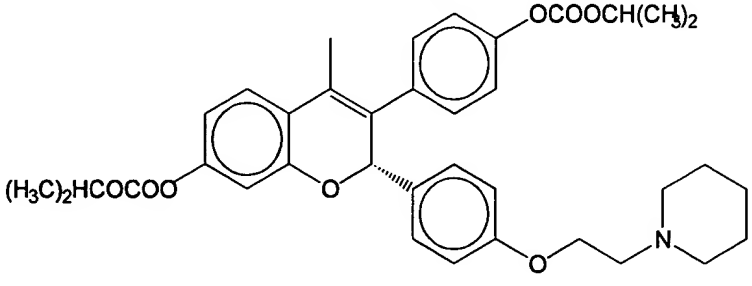

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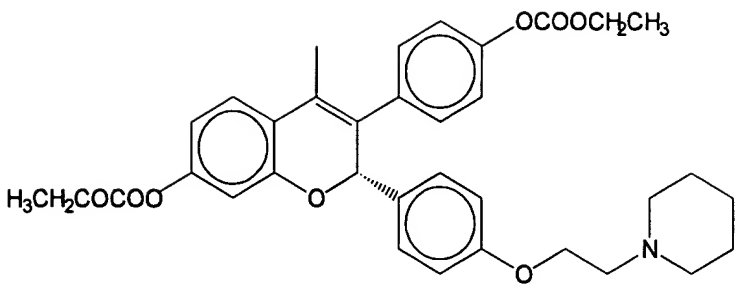

Claims 88-89 (Canceled).

90. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 84 wherein the benzopyran derivative is a salt of an acid selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, adipic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, benzoic acid, camphorsulfonic acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, hydroiodic acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrochlorothiazide acid, hydroxy-naphthoic acid, lactic acid, maleic acid, methanesulfonic acid, methylsulfuric acid, 1,5-naphthalenedisulfonic acid, nitric acid, palmitic acid, pivalic acid, phosphoric acid, propionic acid, succinic acid, sulfuric acid, tartaric acid, terephthalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, and valeric acid.

Claims 91-92 (Canceled).

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90 wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid.

Claims 94-95 (Canceled).

96. (Currently amended) A method of treating or reducing the risk of acquiring hypercholesterolemia comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or reduction a therapeutically effective amount of a sex steroid precursor selected from the group selected from dehydroepiandrosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone-sulfate, androst-5-ene-3β,17β-diol and a compound converted *in vivo* to one of the foregoing, and further comprising administering to said

patient a therapeutically effective amount of a selective estrogen receptor modulator as part of a combination therapy, ~~The method of claim 2~~ wherein said selective estrogen receptor modulator is:

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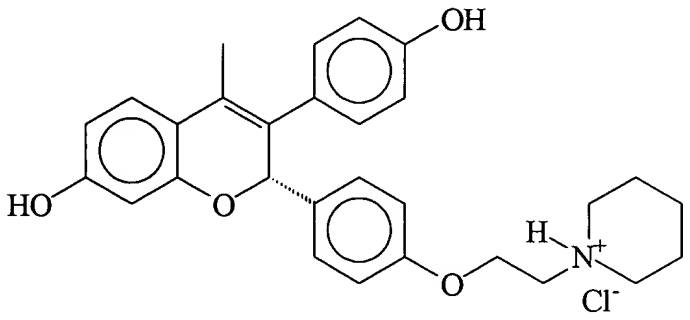

~~and an amount of a sex steroid precursor selected from the group consisting of dehydroepiandrosterone, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfact and androst-5-ene-3β.17β-diol~~ ,

wherein a beneficial effect of said combination exceeds, by a statistically significant margin, a beneficial effect from either said precursor or said selective estrogen receptor modulator alone.

Claims 97-102 (Canceled).